**Procurement of foodgrains in Punjab**

500. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the quantity of rice/wheat procured by the Food Corporation of India and other Government agencies from the farmers of Punjab recently alongwith the rates of each variety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Rice is not procured directly from the farmers. Only paddy is procured from the farmers. As on 20.11.2001, during the current Kharif and Rabi Marketing Season, the following quantity paddy and wheat have been procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State Government Agencies in Punjab at Minimum Support Price.

(*Fig. in Lakh tonnes*)

| Season | FCI | State Agencies | Total | Rate/Per Quintal (In Rupees) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kharif 2001-02 (Paddy)* | 23.87 | 70.33 | 94.20 | Paddy (i) Common-530/- (ii) Grade' A-560/- |
| Rabi 2001-02 (wheat) | 30.62 | 74.98 | 105.60 | 610.00 |

**Prevention of sale of children**

501. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 23rd September, 2001 under the heading "Nation's Name: Starving Orissa Family Sells children";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent such sordid sale of children for the reasons like penury and starvation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Losses of Super Bazars**

502. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Super Bazars, a chain of consumer stores, have been closed down permanently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the accumulated losses of Super Bazars at the time of closure;

(d) whether Government propose to conduct any inquiry to point and fix responsibility on persons responsible for huge losses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The Cooperative Store Ltd. (Super Bazar) registered under Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act 1984, (MSCS Act 1984) started incurring loss from 1996-1997 which mounted in subsequent years. The accumulated loss has reached the level of Rs. 39.28 crores (unaudited) by the end of 2000-2001. The liabilities of Super Bazar include besides the staff salary due from April, 2001, suppliers dues of about Rs. 38.50 lakhs, unpaid dividend of Rs. 23.32 lakhs, vehicle loan of Rs. 34.00 lakhs, cash credit from Syndicate Bank of Rs. 144.21 lakhs. Other liabilities of Rs. 265.25 lakhs and Government loan of Rs. 2186.64 lakhs. The Store has no resources for meeting these liabilities.

The severe financial constraints faced by Super Bazar have very adversely affected the overall functioning of the Store in terms of administration, commercial operations and supply chain management resulting in rapid deterioration. Considering all factors and the present circumstances of Super Bazar, the Central Registrar of Cooperatives Societies have been requested to take action for the winding up of the Super Bazar under the provisions of Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act 1984.

(d) and (e) An inquiry under Section 69 and 73 of MSCS Act 1984 was instituted by Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies into the affairs of